

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland held on Monday, 4 April 2011 at 10.30 am at County Offices, Kendal

PRESENT:

Mr GD Cook (Chair)

County Councillors

Mrs J Willis (Vice-Chair)
Mr J Airey
Mr RK Bingham
Mr J Bland
Mrs C Feeney-Johnson
Mrs BC Gray

Mr P Hornby
Mr B Jameson
Mr KJ Lancaster
Mrs C Salisbury
Mr I Stewart
Mr WJ Wearing

District Council

Mr G Vincent

Parish Councils

Mr A Muirhead
Mr R Shapland

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Clare, Dr D Earnshaw, Mr J Stephenson and Mr R Wilson.

This was the first meeting of the Local Committee since the sad death of Mr Joe Nicholson who had represented Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale for 27 years. Members stood in silent tribute.

139. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting for any items of business.

140. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr G D Cook declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6(3) – Budget Working Group - in relation to an application for funding from the

Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership as he lived near the Kendal Canal Head project (minute -143(3) refers). Mrs B Gray also declared a personal interest in this item of business as a member of the Canal Management Committee.

Mr R K Bingham declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Review of County Council Supported Bus Services – as a member of the Milnthorpe Market Committee (minute 146 refers).

Mr RK Bingham, Mr SB Collins, Mrs B Gray, Mrs C Feeney Johnson, Mr K Lancaster, and Mr I Stewart declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 12 – South Lakeland Land Allocations Emerging Options – as members of South Lakeland District Council (minute 149 refers). Mr S B Collins also declared a personal interest as a member of the Lake District National Park Authority.

141. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public questions, deputations or petitions relating to any item on the agenda.

142. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 28 February 2011 were confirmed, as circulated, and thereupon signed by the Chair.

On minute 128 (2) – **Children and Young People’s Working Group** – the Chair of the Working Group reported on a hugely successful Youth Conference that had taken place on 31st March. Feedback had been extremely positive and she thanked the Area Support Manager and her team for all their hard work in organising the event.

143. SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED BUDGET

(1) Communities Budget

A report by the Corporate Director – Resources presented the actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Local Committee’s Communities budgets as at 28 February 2011.

RESOLVED, that

- (a) the following be noted:-
 - the budget allocations for 2010-11 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date;
 - the unallocated resources in the Communities Revenue budgets of £65,227;

- the unallocated resources in the Local Member Capital budgets of £150;
- (b) £2,200 be de-committed from the monies committed to Local Area Partnerships within the General Provision budget from the £5,898 allocation for a Fixed Speed Device on the A65 at Sedgwick as a speed sign is no longer required. This will leave an allocation of £3,698;
- (c) £250 be de-committed from the monies committed to Local Area Partnerships within the General Provision budget from the Lakes Parish Council Courses allocation of £750. This will leave an allocation of £500;
- (d) £10 be de-committed from the monies committed to the Local Area Partnerships within the General Provision budget from the Windermere Town Council allocation of £2,697. This will leave an allocation of £2,687;
- (e) £4,387 be vired from the Neighbourhood Development Team budget to the General Provision budget. This will leave a spending limit of £153,361 with a projected underspend of £17,209 in the Neighbourhood Development Team budget.

(2) Highways Budget

Consideration was given to a report by the Corporate Director presenting the actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Local Committee's Highways Revenue and Capital Budgets as at 28th February 2011.

RESOLVED, that the following be noted:-

- (a) the budget allocations for 2010-11 and the expenditure recorded to date;
- (b) the Revenue budget including Highway Stewards and Members Works currently has a projected overspend of £4,467;
- (c) the Non Principal Road Network Structural Maintenance budget is showing a projected overspend of £10,497;
- (d) the Annual Package of Measures budget is showing a projected underspend of £58,933;

(3) Budget Working Group

At this point in the meeting the Chair left the meeting and the Vice Chair took the Chair for this item of business.

The Local Committee had before it the minutes of the meeting of the Budget Working Group held on 9 March 2011.

In considering the recommendations the Chair of the Children and Young People's Working Group flagged up the fact that there would be transport issues to be addressed in relation to the Young Persons capped fare transport scheme.

RESOLVED, that

- (a) the minutes of the Budget Working Group held on 9 March 2011 be received;
- (b) it be noted that following consultation with the Budget Working Group the Chief Executive had agreed not to allocate up to £2,250 to the Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership towards the cost of submitting a planning application to secure the route of the canal from Canal Head to Natland Bridge (minute 128(3) of the last meeting of the Local Committee refers);
- (c) the School Crossing Patrol SLA for 2011/12 be accepted;
- (d) the Highways and Transportation Working Group be asked to assess alternative safety measures which might be funded from any underspend on the School Crossing Patrol budget in 2011/12;
- (e) the proposals in appendix 1 of the Highways Revenue budget 2011/12 report be accepted (appendix 2 of the Budget Working Group report refers);
- (f) £50,000 be allocated to the Young People's capped fares transport scheme from the 0-19 budget. The balance of £90,255 to be spent according to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Working Group;
- (g) a task and finish group be set up to consider how and to what level Neighbourhood Forums and Local Area Partnerships can be supported in the future.

144. LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR DEVOLVED RESPONSIBILITIES

A report by the Corporate Director – Resources set out the budget allocations for Local Committees in 2011/12.

In presenting the report the Finance Manager advised that the 2011-12 budget included a Local Member Schemes budget. It was for one year only but it had been agreed that the resources could be spent over a period of two years.

In relation to the funding allocation from government to address potholes from the recent bad weather members were advised that it would be spent in line with the methodology agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd March 2011.

RESOLVED, that

- (a) the allocations and guidance approved by Cabinet be noted;
- (b) the guidance in respect of the Government Pothole Grant within the Highways revenue budget be noted;
- (c) a report be presented to the next meeting of the Local Committee on priorities within the Highways Revenue budget for 2011 – 12.

145. UPDATE FOLLOWING THE CAPITA TRANSITION

The Assistant Director Highways and Transportation updated the Local Committee verbally on the reshaping of the highways service following the termination of the Capita contract at the end of March. He advised of the current position with regard to the proposed staffing structure, which it was aimed to have in place by mid June, and of proposals to deliver a more flexible high quality service within a constrained budget. The Assistant Director also touched upon moves to be put in place once the contract with Amey ended in March 2012.

During discussion the Assistant Director agreed to circulate members with a copy of the proposed staffing structure for the highways service. He also responded to concerns about the withdrawal of the Highways Hotline which had been replaced by an answer machine. He advised members that the Highways Hotline had been provided freely by Amey who had withdrawn it following changes within the organisation. The answer machine was for non urgent calls only and staff were on stand by in the event of a more serious situation arising. The position was being monitored and he agreed to advise members of their specific point of contact.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

146. REVIEW OF COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

The Local Committee had before it a report setting out the effects on bus services in the South Lakeland area of a reduction in funding for local bus services across the County of £340,000. The report set out the services affected in the South Lakeland area and the reasons why they had been chosen. It also examined alternatives that might be available for those who currently travelled on the services being withdrawn.

Members were advised that as all the services currently supported by the County Council met the criteria agreed by Cabinet in March 2008 additional criteria had

been developed to assess all services in order to indicate which offered the best outcome of the funds invested.

Before considering the report the Chair advised that in response to the County Council's announcement to withdraw bus services in the South Lakeland area there had been some work undertaken over the last couple of weeks to provide some alternative solutions. He outlined work that was still ongoing in relation to the following bus services and advised there might be further announcements regarding alternative solutions:-

Service 10 : Barrow – Ulverston via Leece, Gleaston, Stainton Little and Great Urswick;

Service 511 : Broughton in Furness – Ulverston including Service 60 : Ulverston – Canal Head

Service 550 : Silverdale – Beetham – Kendal via Hincaster, Sedgwick and Natland

Service 564A : Cowgill-Dent-Sedbergh–Kendal (Saturdays)

Service 618 : Barrow – Ulverston – Newby Bridge – Windermere – Ambleside

Members expressed disappointment about the potential changes and the fact that of the 19 scheduled bus services around the county facing the axe 9 of them were in the South Lakeland area totalling £220,000. Officers responded to questions raised as to how the additional criteria to assess all services had been approved and why it had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key decisions.

In discussion reference was made to the grant of £288,000 for one year only awarded by Government for improving community transport in Cumbria. Proposals as to how this funding could be applied would be presented to the Local Committee in due course, however it was not considered appropriate for it to be used to reinstate subsidised scheduled bus services that had been removed. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care stressed that officers needed to be imaginative in relation to the use of this funding and work at a local level to produce creative and innovative sustainable community transport solutions.

During the course of discussion the local member for Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale referred to the services being cut in his area and made a plea for a small amount of funding to be allocated to the proposed summer service in his area (service 564A). The local member for Lyth Valley also referred to service 541 and made a request for ways of retaining it to be looked into. With regard to the new criteria for assessing services a member commented that it would hinder the start of the Child Poverty Strategy.

RESOLVED, that the effect of the changes to bus services in the South Lakeland area be noted, and the comments made at the meeting taken on board.

147. APPLEBY NEW FAIR TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2011 - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

A report by the Corporate Director – Environment provided a summary of the consultation on a proposed traffic regulation order for Appleby New Fair.

The proposed traffic regulation order comprised road closures, one-way traffic and no waiting at any time restrictions. The proposals covered the A683 from Kirkby Lonsdale through Sedbergh to the Eden/South Lakeland district boundary including all the side roads and lay-bys off the A683 and some off the A684.

Apart from one member who did not support the proposals, it was

RESOLVED, that the County of Cumbria (Various Roads, South Lakeland Area) (Appleby Horse Fair) (Traffic Regulation) Order 20><, be made operative as advertised, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the report by the Corporate Director- Environment.

148. GILTHWAITERIGG LANE, KENDAL - 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER

A report by the Corporate Director – Environment provided a summary of the consultation on a proposed traffic regulation order to introduce a 30mph speed limit on Gilthwaiterigg Lane, Kendal (minute 32(8) of a meeting of the Highways and Transportation Working Group at its meeting of 16 November 2010 refers).

RESOLVED, that the County of Cumbria (Various Roads in the District of South Lakeland) (Consolidation and Provision of Speed Limits) (Order 2007) Variation (No. 6) Order 20><, which proposed the introduction of a 30mph speed limit for Gilthwaiterigg Lane, Kendal, be made and implemented as proposed, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the report by the Corporate Director – Environment.

149. SOUTH LAKELAND LAND ALLOCATIONS EMERGING OPTIONS CONSULTATION

A report by the Corporate Director – Environment invited the Local Committee to comment on the South Lakeland Emerging Options Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which had been published for consultation by South Lakeland District Council. Members were advised that the Emerging Options identified sites which were believed to be the most suitable for future development in the final Land Allocations DPD. The views of the Local Committee would be reported on at a meeting of Cabinet on 28 April when a response to the consultation by the District Council on the Land Allocations DPD would be agreed.

During discussion differing views were expressed as to how the County Council should respond to the consultation by the District Council on the “Emerging Options”. On the one hand there were members who expressed disquiet about land development in the area and considered the Land Allocations DPD to be ill conceived. They supported a proposal calling for Cabinet to object to the housing development identified in the Land Allocations DPD. On the other hand there were members who supported the Emerging Options stressing the need for affordable housing to be provided in the area, and for developments to be planned for in a controlled manner.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED, that the matters raised in the report be noted, and that given the severe reservations expressed by members of the Local Committee about the housing proposals across the district, Cabinet be called upon to object to the housing development in the Land Allocations, whilst recognising the need for the sensitive development of affordable housing for local people.

150. LOCAL CAPITAL SCHEME (ELECTORAL DIVISIONS) REPORT

A report by the Chief Executive sought to commit elements of the Local Capital Scheme budget, including Members’ proposals that had been sufficiently worked up, to enable Local Committee to consider spending decisions.

RESOLVED, that the reallocation of a capital grant of £2,880 from the High Furness electoral division budget to contribute towards the cost of creating a public footpath from Brathay to Pull Wyke in the parish of Skelwith be approved.

151. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REFERRALS

There were no Neighbourhood Forum referrals to be considered at the meeting.

152. APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COUNCIL GOVERNORS

The Local Committee considered a schedule of recommendations for the appointment of County Council representatives on the Governing Bodies of County, Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools.

RESOLVED, that subject to their consent the following be appointed:-

School	Nomination
Community	
Goodly Dale Community Primary	Mrs M Kershaw

47 Oakthwaite Road
Windermere LA23 2BD

Voluntary Controlled

Allithwaite CE

Mrs D Fenton
Fir Trees
Linden Fold
Grange over Sands
LA11 7AY

153. BETTER HIGHWAYS MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Corporate Director – Environment providing Members with an update on highways maintenance issues using the Better Highways approach. It contained the new Measures, as well as a profile of the work done.

RESOLVED, that the monitoring information for the Better Highways works from 6 December 2010 to date for reactive maintenance work, as detailed in the report, be noted.

154. FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND CREDIT UNION DEVELOPMENT

A report by the Corporate Director - provided an overview progress update on the work of the South Lakeland Credit Union Study Group in the period since the report to the Committee in September 2010.

In particular attention was drawn to a Promotions and Communications Sub –Group that had developed a public pledge form and was now approaching South Lakeland District Council to request that they distribute pledge forms, to all households in South Lakeland. Members were advised that their support through signing up directly as individuals would be appreciated. In discussion on this aspect of the report the Chair agreed initially to be the Local Committee's nominated contact

RESOLVED, that the achievements made from investing the allocated DRAMA/Credit Union Development budget of £16,836 for 2009-10 and 2010-11 be noted.

155. EDEN AND SOUTH LAKELAND FORWARD UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report by the Corporate Director – Environment providing a brief up-date on the priority projects contained within the Eden and South Lakeland Forward Delivery Plan. The up-date focused on projects within South Lakeland but also gave information on projects in Eden.

During discussion Members were advised that the role of the Eden and South Lakeland Forward Board had been superseded by the Local Enterprise Partnership however ways of keeping it on some form were being looked into. A member also expressed her disappointment that the contract to provide FE at Newton Rigg had been awarded to a bidder from outside of the county.

RESOLVED, that

(a) progress on the priority projects, as set out in the report, be noted;

(b) a report be presented to the next meeting of the Local Committee on the delivery of broadband provision in the South Lakeland area;

156. OUTSIDE BODIES

The local Member for Lyth Valley highlighted the fact the work of Inland Drainage Board would be an issue for discussion in the future.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm